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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,223	03/05/2002	Roger R. Lesieur	C-2351DIV	1597
7590 12/10/2003			EXAMINER	
William W. Jones Patent Counsel 6 Juniper Lane Madison, CT 06443			DOROSHENK, ALEXA A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1764	

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/091,223		LESIEUR ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Alexa A. Doroshenk <i>ADD</i>		1764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 3, 4, 8, 12, 13 and 17 continue to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunster et al. (4,865,820) as presented in as presented in paragraph 4 in the office action of June 23, 2003.
3. Claims 5-7, 9-11 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunster et al. (4,865,820) as applied to claims 3, 8 and 13 above, and further in view of Fourie et al. (H1,849), O'Connell et al. (6,223,843 B1) or Lomax et al. (6,368,735 B1).

Dunster et al. discloses the general reforming of hydrocarbons but does not disclose specific hydrocarbons, such as gasoline, diesel fuel and methanol.

Fourie et al. discloses wherein gasoline, diesel fuel and methanol are typical reformable fuels (col. 1, lines 23-29). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select any hydrocarbon recognized for reforming processes in the method of Fourie et al. as it is merely the selection of a specific hydrocarbon known to be effective in a reforming process.

O'Connell et al. also discloses wherein gasoline, diesel fuel and methanol are fuels which are reformable (col. 1, line 65- col. 2, line 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select any hydrocarbon recognized for reforming processes in the method of O'Connell et al. as it

is merely the selection of a specific hydrocarbon known to be effective in a reforming process.

Lomax et al. also discloses wherein gasoline, diesel fuel and methanol are typical fuels which are reformable (col. 1, lines 23-32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select any hydrocarbon recognized for reforming processes in the method of Lomax et al. as it is merely the selection of a specific hydrocarbon known to be effective in a reforming process.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's submission, see the statement of common ownership at the time the invention was made on page 2 of the After Final Amendment, filed November 5, 2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 5-7, 9-11 and 14-16 under Dunster et al. (4,865,820) in view of Grasso et al. (4,865,820) has been fully considered and is sufficient to exclude the Grasso et al. reference. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Dunster et al. (4,865,820) in view of Fourie et al. (H1,849), O'Connell et al. (6,223,843 B1) or Lomax et al. (6,368,735 B1).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexa A. Doroshenk whose telephone number is 703-305-0074. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM.

Application/Control Number: 10/091,223
Art Unit: 1764

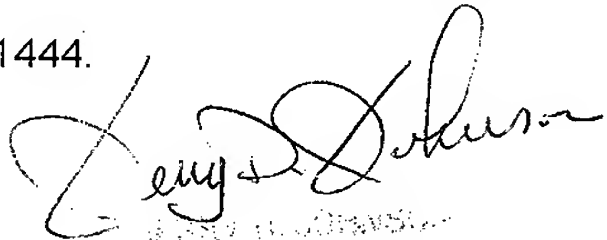
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 703-308-6824. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Please note that as of December 11, 2003, the examiner can be reached at her new telephone number 571-272-1446 and the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola, can be reached at his new telephone number 571-272-1444.

AAD
AAD
December 2, 2003


ZENG, J. J.
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 100